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David Y. Ige
Governor

Chris Tatum
President and Chief Executive Officer

Statement of
CHRIS TATUM

Hawai'i Tourism Authority
before the
**SENATE COMMITTEES ON
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
AND
ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM**

Friday, April 12, 2019 at 2:00PM
State Capitol, Conference Room #224

In consideration of
HCR 25 HD1

Chair Gabbard, Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Ruderman, Vice Chair Taniguchi, and members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment and members of the Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism: The Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) **supports** HCR 25 HD1, which requests the Department of Agriculture and the Hawai'i Tourism Authority to report to the legislature on the processing of State of Hawai'i Plant and Animal declaration forms, including the costs involved.

The Hawai'i Tourism Authority, through funding received by the legislature, has supported the printing, distribution, collection and collation of these critical forms for many years. In FY2019, the cost for the program, including printing of forms, envelopes, shipping, scanning, processing and tabulating was \$657,445. These forms, in addition to assisting the State of Hawai'i in its efforts to curtail the unintentional introduction of invasive species to our beautiful islands, also serve as an invaluable source of data which is utilized by the State for statistical purposes directly related to the tourism industry.

In 2018, more than 3.7 million forms were collected and processed. The data collected, since the inception of the form, has been very extremely useful in the HTA's efforts to support the visitor industry. Data such as accommodation types, length of stay, location of stay, number of individuals, and more have provided us with market research that is both cost effective and statistically valid. We welcome the opportunity to work collaboratively with the Department of Agriculture to provide the legislature with the information being requested.

It is for these reasons that the HTA **supports** HCR 25 HD1. We appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony on this resolution.

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

GLENN K. MURANAKA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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**TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT AND
ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, & TOURISM**

**APRIL 12, 2019
2:00 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 224**

**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 25 HD1
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND HAWAII TOURISM
AUTHORITY TO REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE ON THE PROCESSING OF
STATE OF HAWAII PLANT AND ANIMAL DECLARATION FORMS, INCLUDING THE
COSTS INVOLVED**

Chairpersons Gabbard and Wakai and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HCR 25 HD1, requesting the Department of Agriculture and Hawaii Tourism Authority to report to the legislature on the processing of State of Hawaii Plant and Animal declaration forms, including the costs involved. The Department offers comments.

There are some mischaracterizations cited for the basis of this resolution. The first is that the form requires statistical information from visitors and residents who are on flights entering the State. The only requirement is that people declare what agricultural commodities they are bringing into the State, if any at all. There is no requirement to provide the statistical information and the declaration form clearly states that this information is voluntary.

The second mischaracterization is that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Transportation Security Administration (TSA) conduct inspections of passenger bags into the State of Hawaii for plants or animals prior to departure from the U.S. mainland. This does not occur, and neither the USDA nor the TSA have authority



to inspect domestic passenger baggage for importation of plants, animals or other regulated agricultural commodities into Hawaii. The USDA conducts inspections of passenger baggage leaving Hawaii to meet federally established quarantines for federally actionable pests such as fruit flies. The TSA conducts inspections of passengers and baggage for things such as firearms or explosives, to ensure in-flight safety.

The third mischaracterization is that the amnesty bins and the declaration forms are the only means to regulate importation of plant and animals into the Hawaii. The primary means of regulation involves Plant Quarantine Branch (PQB) Inspectors conducting inspections of regulated commodities at all major ports of entry statewide. The PQB uses a number of tools to ensure compliance with State regulations for the importation of agricultural materials. Some additional tools used besides the declaration form and amnesty bins are compliance agreements, detector dogs, and Electronic manifesting. Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter 150A requires that a PQB inspector inspect and “pass” all agricultural commodities that are presented for inspection in order to allow entry into the State. The declaration form provides PQB inspectors with a mechanism to prioritize their inspections on the baggage claim. With the existing limited staffing, if the forms were not available, the ability to readily seek out and identify regulated commodities to conduct an inspection would be difficult at best. In the last twelve months, items such as: a bearded dragon, live honeybees, green coffee, live fish, live seafood, and bengal cats have all been declared on the Plant and Animal declaration form.

Like all regulations, education is the primary mechanism to gain compliance. The vast majority of visitors and residents are able and willing to comply with the existing rules and regulations. The declaration form is an invaluable educational tool that begins the educational process by informing visitors, and reminding residents, that Hawaii is unlike the rest of United States and that there are additional requirements to maintain Hawaii’s unique environments. As an example of the success of the form, in January 2019 there were 2,302 declarations with agricultural commodities, comprising 4,388 commodities, declared at the Daniel K. Inouye International Airport. The amnesty bins collected an additional 337 commodities and provided an opportunity to those that were unaware of the requirements of the form to still comply with import regulations by

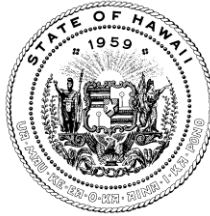
relinquishing regulated agricultural commodities. The Department has continuously worked with airline and maritime carriers to ensure that the forms have been properly utilized. With the exception of the personnel needed to monitor passengers and review the forms, there are no costs to the Department.

The Department uses this form only to conduct inspections and does not utilize information contained on the form unless action is required based on the declaration, or for good cause during baggage surveillance activities. The information used is the same information that PQB uses for all other importers utilizing other means of importation into the State such as air cargo or via surface vessel. All other information on the form and its use, including the final disposition of the form is done by the Hawaii Tourism Authority.

The Department can work with HTA to provide a report to the legislature on these forms, as both agencies find value in the form itself.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
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Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson

Before the Senate Committees on
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
and
ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM

Friday April 12, 2019
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

In consideration of
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 25, HOUSE DRAFT 1
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND HAWAII TOURISM
AUTHORITY TO REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE ON THE PROCESSING OF
STATE OF HAWAII PLANT AND ANIMAL DECLARATION FORMS, INCLUDING
THE COSTS INVOLVED

House Concurrent Resolution 25, House Draft 1 requests that the Department of Agriculture (DOA) and the Hawaii Tourism Authority provide a report on the use of the State of Hawaii Plant and Animal Declaration Form. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) offers the following comments.**

The Department partners with the DOA on a number of invasive species and biosecurity efforts and understands that the use of the Plant and Animal Declaration Form is a primary source of information regarding the introduction of nonnative species into Hawaii. The Department also notes that this form has an educational value in informing incoming passengers regarding Hawaii's import restrictions and demonstrating that the State takes biosecurity seriously.

The Department is a collaborator with DOA in the development and implementation of the Hawaii Interagency Biosecurity Plan, which has the primary purpose of identifying and addressing capacity needs in funding, personnel, infrastructure, and policy regarding Hawaii's biosecurity and invasive species programs. The report described by this measure would provide a description of capacity needs related to the processing of forms and could contribute to efforts to increase capacity related to this important biosecurity function. The Department is supportive of the production of this report.

The Department notes several amendments that were made to a similar measure, Senate Concurrent Resolution 20, based on testimony by the DOA identifying several mischaracterizations:

- Clarifying that the United States (US) Department of Agriculture and Transportation Safety Administration do not inspect passenger bags on the US mainland that are destined for Hawaii prior;
- Clarifying that the agricultural declaration form and amnesty bins are not the only means by which the DOA regulates importation of plants and animals into Hawaii; and
- Adding that the DOA Plant Quarantine Branch inspects regulated commodities at all major ports of entry.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

HCR-25-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/11/2019 9:54:34 AM

Testimony for AEN on 4/12/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brian Miyamoto	Testifying for Hawaii Farm Bureau	Support	Yes

Comments: